

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES BUREAU OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Number: 4484 Date:

11/02/2004

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

SUBJECT:

NATIONWIDE PRISONER

REFERENCE:

All County Letter No. 00-10, Dated January 2, 2000

All County Letter No. 00-10, Dated March 15, 2004

SPECIAL ATTENTION:

[X] CalWORKs

[X] General Relief

[X]

Food Stamps

I. <u>PURPOSE/BACKGROUND</u>

This Administrative Directive releases procedures for processing the Nationwide Prisoner Match (NPM). On April 1, 2004, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) began producing and forwarding the NPM to the counties monthly rather than the previous policy of twice yearly. In addition, the NPM has been modified to reduce or eliminate unproductive data. Effective June 2004, the NPM replaced the Jail Reporting System (JRS) match.

The NPM was mandated by the Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33), signed August 5, 1997. This Act requires states to establish a system to identify and ensure that an individual incarcerated in a federal, state or local penal, correctional or other detention facility for more than 30 days does not retain status as an eligible member of a Food Stamp household.

The law allows states to use prisoner information collected by the Social Security Administration (SSA) Prisoner Update Program System (PUPS) for this match. CDSS has opted to use the PUPS information. The PUPS data is matched against the Food Stamp and CalWORKs recipient database to determine if an incarcerated person is currently receiving assistance. The initial match criteria is the Social Security Number (SSN). A secondary match using name, any known alias, date of birth and gender is used when the SSN does not agree.

II. POLICY

CDSS forwards the NPM manifest and abstracts (Attachment I) to the Welfare Fraud Prevention and Investigations Section (WFP&I). The NPM information is only a fraud indicator and the information must be verified before action to terminate or reduce benefits is taken.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Welfare Fraud Investigator (WFI)

Upon receipt of the NPM manifest and abstracts, the WFI shall:

- 1. Annotate the manifest to reflect the date the NPM was received.
- 2. Review the LEADER *Inquiry*, **Case Profile** screen to determine if the individual is currently receiving assistance.
- 3. Review the LEADER *Data Collection*, Case Comments screen to determine if the person in question was reported out of the home.
- 4. If LEADER shows the individual is not currently aided, the WFI shall:
 - a. Determine the date aid was terminated.
 - b. Review the abstract to determine the date of incarceration.
 - c. Compare the date aid was terminated with the incarceration date.
 - d. If aid was terminated prior to the incarceration date or the first of the month following the 10-day notification:
 - Attach a LEADER printout to the abstract.
 - Annotate the abstract and the NPM manifest as Negative Administrative Disposition.
 - Retain manifest and abstracts for 1 year.
 - e. If LEADER shows the individual is aided, but was reported out of the home, the WFI shall document LEADER Case Comments, initiate a *Future Action Control (FAC)*, User Control Request, and complete a WFP&I 23 per existing procedures to advise the EW to take appropriate action.
 - Attach a LEADER printout to the abstract.
 - Annotate the abstract and the NPM manifest as Negative Agency Error.
 - Retain manifest and abstracts for 1 year.
- 5. If LEADER shows the individual remains aided, the WFI shall:
 - a. Review the abstract to determine the incarceration date and/or release date.
 - b. Compare the approval date with the date of incarceration and/or release date.

PROCEDURES - Welfare Fraud Investigator (Continued)

III.

- c. If the release date is prior to the application date, the WFI shall:
 - Attach a LEADER printout to the abstract.
 - Annotate the abstract and the NPM manifest as Negative Administrative Disposition.
 - Retain manifest and abstracts for 1 year.
- 6. If aid was approved prior to the incarceration date, **the potential for fraud exists**. The WFI shall:
 - a. Initiate a LEADER Fraud Referral for all "Potential Fraud" NPM matches.
 - b. Complete a Facts Input Document (FID) to open an investigation on MAPPER.
 - c. Determine if the person remains incarcerated or the release date by contacting the incarcerating agency as follows:
 - Telephone the incarcerating agency; or
 - Initiate a WFP&I 455 (Attachment II), along with a completed WFP&I 455A (Attachment III); or
 - WFP&I 455B (Attachment IV) for inmates of LA County Jail System; or
 - Access the incarcerating agency's website, if available.
- 7. If the WFI has not received a response from the incarcerating agency within 30 days, the WFI shall:
 - a. Document LEADER **Case Comments**, initiate a **FAC**, and complete a WFP&I 23 per existing procedures advising the EW to reevaluate eligibility.
 - b. Print a copy of the *FAC* and attach it to the NPM Abstract.
 - c. Control for disposition from district within 45 days of initiation of *FAC*.
- 8. Upon confirmation from the incarcerating agency that the individual remains in custody, the WFI shall:
 - a. Document LEADER **Case Comments**, initiate a *FAC*, and complete a WFP&I 23 per existing procedures advising the EW to reevaluate eligibility.
 - b. Include the NPM Run Date on the *FAC*.
 - c. Control for disposition from the EW within 45 days of the FAC.

PROCEDURES - Welfare Fraud Investigator (Continued)

III.

- d. If no disposition is received from the district, the WFI shall:
 - Send a second notice to district 45 days after initial WFP&I 23 was sent.
 - Annotate log with date of second request.
 - Follow existing procedures for notifying the District Fraud Liaison when a disposition is not received.
- 9. When the case disposition is received from the EW, the WFI shall:
 - a. Review LEADER *Inquiry*, Case Profile screens to confirm corrective action was taken on Positive findings.
 - b. Print and attach all LEADER screens needed to complete the monthly cost avoidance report.
 - c. Annotate the NPM log/manifest with the investigation results and the date aid was terminated or reduced.
 - d. Compute the overpayment/overissuance per existing procedures.
 - e. Close the investigation on LEADER and MAPPER as appropriate.

Note: Accurate controls must be maintained.

- 10. Complete Monthly Report (Attachment V), including the following:
 - a. The total number of NPM's received.
 - b. The total number of cases with aid reduced.
 - c. The total number of cases terminated.

B. Eligibility Worker (EW)

- 1. Upon receipt of the WFP&I 23 and *FAC* the EW shall:
 - a. Review the case record to determine if the incarcerated person is aided in the AU.
 - b. If the incarcerated person is not aided or the case was previously terminated for another reason, advise WFP&I by completing the bottom portion of the WFP&I 23 and a *FAC* response within 15 working days.
 - c. If the incarcerated person is currently aided, initiate appropriate action to terminate aid or delete the incarcerated person from the AU per existing procedures for Cash and Food Stamps.

III. PROCEDURES - Eligibility Worker (Continued)

- d. Respond to the WFP&I 23 and *FAC* advising WFP&I that the appropriate action was taken. The NPM run date must be included on the response.
- e. If the incarcerated person contests the action, contact WFP&I. The WFI will contact the incarcerating agency to confirm the incarceration and/or release date.
- f. Follow existing procedures for initiating a Participant/Household error on LEADER *Benefit Recovery*.

C. DISTRICT FRAUD LIAISON

Upon receipt of the WFP&I 23 and FAC from WFP&I, the District Fraud Liaison shall:

- 1. Determine if the EW has taken the appropriate action.
- 2. If the appropriate action has not been initiated, control to ensure that the EW takes the appropriate action and responds to WFP&I.
- 3. Advise WFP&I if the case has been terminated and/or the incarcerated person deleted from the AU.
- 4. If no action was taken, advise WFP&I of the reason negative action was not appropriate.

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to your immediate supervisor.

Henry E. Felder, Director Bureau of Special Operations

Approval: [X] BSO [X] BPP [X] BAS [X] BWS

Lenny E. Felder

HEF:GJ:LE:mh

Attachments

AD NPM

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County of Los Angeles

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES



12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH • CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91746 Tel (562) 908-8400 • Fax (562) 908-0459



Date:

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

Fifth District

(Address Field) (Address Field) (Address Field) (Address Field)

Please advise the Department of Public Social Services, Welfare Fraud Prevention & Investigations Section, ORI # CA019A600, of the current status of the inmate(s) named on the attached Request for Incarceration Status form(s).

The Code of Federal Regulations (7CFR273.1[a]) amended as a result of the Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33) requires states to verify the status of individuals listed on the Social Security Administration, Prisoner Update Program System (PUPS). The California Department of Social Services uses this data to provide a Nationwide Prisoner Match. The inmate listed on the attached form(s) was identified as incarcerated in your facility as a result of this match.

We are requesting that you return the enclosed form(s) indicating the current status of the inmate via U. S. mail to:

Welfare Fraud Prevention & Investigations Section 12000 S. Hawthorne Blvd. Hawthorne, CA 90250

If you prefer, you may fax your response to (310) 263-2640. Please contact Hector Gomez, Human Services Administrator I at (310) 349-4504 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Luther Evans, Director Welfare Fraud Prevention & Investigations Section

LE:HG:mh

Attachments

WFP&I 455 (Rev 7/06/04)



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

WELFARE FRAUD PREVENTION & INVESTIGATIONS SECTION 12000 S. Hawthorne Blvd. Hawthorne, California 90250

Fax: (310) 263-2640

Date:

REQUEST FOR INMATE STATUS

INMATE INFORMATION:		LIST DATE:	
Name of Inmate:	SSN#		
D.O.B.	CIN#		
Prisoner ID #:	Confine	ement Date(s):	
	From: From: From:	To: To: To:	
Welfare Fraud Investigator's Name:	File#	Telephone:	
This section is to be completed by the inca			
Currently Incarcerated: [] Yes Conf	inement Date:		
[] No Rel	ease Date:		
Correctional Facility's Name and Address	s:		
Completed By:	Title:	Telephone:	Date:

Please complete one copy of this form and return to: Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, Welfare Fraud Prevention & Investigations Section, 12000 S. Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250.

NATIONWIDE PRISONER MATCH MONTHLY REPORT

ATTACHMENT V

Total Report Month/Year: **General Relief** NA Food Stamps PA Food Stamps CalWORKs WFI File #: inmate's current incarceration or release date.) Number of matches Disposed of as Negative confirmed by incarcerating agencies (verifying Number verified via incarcerating agency Total Nationwide Prisoner Matches remaining Number of responses received from Districts Number of cases with Inmate currently Number of district notifications sent via FAC Matches carried over From previous month Number of inmates whose status has been Number of cases with benefits reduced Total Number of investigations disposed of Number verified via telephone call to Number of Inquiries sent to incarcerating Number verified via returned WFP&I New Matches received in Report Month Number of NEW Investigations opened Number of cases with inmate not (# 4 plus 9 A plus 9 B plus 9 C plus 10) Number of cases with No Action agencies via WFP&I 455A or 455B Number of cases with benefits currently aided on LEADER (Number A plus B plus C below) Total New Matches on hand End of Month (# 1 minus # 7) Administrative Disposition. 455A or WFP&I 455B Incarcerating Agency Aided on LEADER INVESTIGATIONS (#8 from prior month) Necessary/Taken discontinued No. MATCHES website WED 8.1 304 / Dov. 04/2004 Ä Ä Ω Ċ Ä J. œ. ai က် ai 3 4 5 6